

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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May 13, 2003

FROM: **PETER R. HILLS**, Fire Chief/Fire Warden
San Bernardino County Consolidated Fire District

SUBJECT: **FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT AWARD - COUNTY SERVICE AREA
38, IMPROVEMENT ZONE N (EL MIRAGE)**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Acting as the governing body of County Service Area 38, Improvement Zone N (El Mirage), authorize Peter R. Hills, Fire Chief/Fire Warden to accept a grant award in the amount of \$7,200, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), under the FEMA Fiscal Year 2002 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, for a period from November 15, 2002 to November 14, 2003.
2. Direct the Auditor/Controller-Recorder to make the fiscal year 2002/03 budgetary adjustments as follows (4 votes required):

<u>Description</u>	<u>Accounting Codes</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Increase State Grant Revenue	SHS 290 290 8760	\$7,200
Decrease Contingencies	SHS 290 290 600 6000	\$ 800
Increase Salaries and Benefits	SHS 290 290 100 1010	\$4,000
Increase Service and Supplies	SHS 290 290 200 2130	\$4,000

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Beginning in Fiscal Year 2001, Congress provided FEMA the authority to award one-year grants directly, on a competitive basis, to local fire departments of a State to enhance their abilities with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The fiscal year 2002 program focused on identifying fire departments that lacked the basic tools and resources necessary to protect the health and safety of the public and their firefighting personnel. In Federal Fiscal Year 2002, Congress appropriated a total of \$360 million to carry out these program activities. As a result, FEMA developed a programmatic approach that would allow fire departments to address a broader range of their identified basic needs, and four (4) grant-funding programs were established: Fire Operations and Fire Safety Program, Fire Prevention Program, Emergency Medical Services Program and Firefighting Vehicles Acquisition Program.

On March 26, 2002, the Board of Supervisors authorized the San Bernardino County Consolidated Fire District to apply for the FEMA FY 2002 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program on behalf of all Board-Governed Fire Districts and County Service Areas with fire powers. FEMA evaluated the applications with a focus on a department's demonstrated financial need for and benefit to be derived from, the grant funds. The Department was successful in obtaining essential grant funding for the CSA 38, Improvement Zone N (El Mirage) for the Emergency Medical Services Program.

El Mirage is a rural farm community without a local hospital or a local ambulance service. Consequently, response times can exceed 30 minutes. While CSA 38, Zone N (El Mirage) currently provides a basic life support system, an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) program can provide immediate intervention for cardiac patients. Early defibrillation of a patient in ventricular fibrillation greatly increases the patient's chance of survival. The need for an AED program is increasingly vital in this community, as the residents of El Mirage are predominantly senior citizens.

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Approval of this recommendation provides critical financial assistance that enhances the Fire Districts' ability to meet the basic needs of fire operations and to ensure the health, welfare and safety of their residents in El Mirage. The approved one-year grant will provide \$7,200 in funding from FEMA to purchase an AED unit and fund the necessary training, application and certification of personnel required to upgrade to this higher level of emergency medical service.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (L. Thomas Krahelski) on April 25, 2003. This item has been reviewed by the County Administrative Office (Wayne Thies, Administrative Analyst) on May 5, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: FEMA approved a total of \$8,000 in project costs. This one-year \$7,200 grant award requires a matching fund contribution, which varies by population of the area served. El Mirage's population is under 50,000 and consequently requires a 10% match of \$800. This \$800 in matching funds will be funded by existing appropriations available within the CSA 38, Improvement Zone N Fiscal Year 2002/2003 budget (SHS 290 290 600 6000). Subsequent to Board approval, grant funds are expected to be received by the end of Fiscal Year 2002/2003.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): First District

PRESENTER: Peter R. Hills (387-5974)